



Dear Bellevue resident,

Thank you for sharing your concerns with the City Council about Puget Sound Energy's Energize Eastside project. I am replying to your email on behalf of the City Council.

Siting or expanding electric utilities, roads, or communication systems is challenging, and PSE's Energize Eastside project clearly presents one of those challenges. Staff research demonstrates that the facilities being proposed by PSE qualify as "essential public facilities" or EPFs. Under state law, these facilities cannot be precluded by municipalities; however a municipality may impose conditions, including mitigation.

In early May, a consultant will begin a formal review of the Energize Eastside project with the start of work on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Led by the City of Bellevue, the EIS will be conducted with the participation of all five Eastside cities affected by the project. The first phase of the EIS process will consider viable solutions that could be implemented to meet the stated need for the project. The alternatives will be captured through a "scoping" process that includes public comment and suggestions on the alternatives that should be considered.

In early March a new [Energize Eastside website](http://www.energizeeastsideeis.org/) (<http://www.energizeeastsideeis.org/>) was launched allowing you to learn more about the project, review meeting materials, sign up for alerts, and provide comments. This site will help meet one of the major objectives of the EIS process, providing opportunities for thorough public review and comment.

In advance of the EIS process and in response to concerns expressed by community members, the City Council directed staff to retain a consultant with expertise in electrical facilities development to provide an independent assessment of the Energize Eastside project. We want answers to questions regarding PSE's growth projections and power-need claims for Bellevue and the Eastside. Utility System Efficiencies, Inc. (USE) was selected by the City to conduct the assessment. Their report and findings will be presented and discussed during a City Council Study Session in early May.

Please continue to lend your voice through the EIS process. Your questions and concerns will be cataloged and responded to as the evaluation of the Energize Eastside project continues.

Thank you again for sharing your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael A. Brennan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Brennan" clearly legible.

Michael A. Brennan, Director
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